(2) The disadvantageous position in which the licensees of new *allams* were placed was due to the fact that the lands they held for the manufacture of salt were not found to be of sufficient security in the money market, with the result that the licensees of new *allams* could not easily obtain loans for investment on their factories on the security of their *allams*. The licensees of such *allams* were therefore hindered in their endeavour to put forth their best efforts to produce the maximum quantity of salt particularly in view of the approaching expiry of the period of the leases. The old licensees also had their grievances. In the case of new licensees, they were bound to supply to the Government only the stipulated quantity of salt, while in the case of licensees of old *allams*, the entire quantity of salt manufactured by them belonged to the Government, the licensees being entitled only to *kudivarom* at the rate of 2½ to 3 annas per maund of salt taken over by the Government. It was represented that the licensees of the old *allams* could not for this reason make even a very small profit.

To remedy this state of affairs it was suggested that (1) the licensees of the new *allams* should be given *jenmom* rights over the *allams* which they held and (2) the inequalities in respect of the rights and liabilities of the two classes of licensees should be done away with, the licensees of old *allams* also being given the existing advantages of the licensees of new *allams*.

The next point was about the delivery to the Government of a stipulated quantity of salt every year. This system worked hardship on the licensees as the annual output of salt was diminishing year after year and as under their agreement, they had to deliver to the Government the stipulated quantity of salt even in times of bad production arising from untoward circumstances. The licensees should therefore be required to deliver only a certain proportion of the salt produced.

The fourth point was about the attachment by the court of the entire quantity of salt at the disposal of licensees which resulted in their difficulty to find suitable contractors for the sale of their salt, as the contractors would have to go without any profit in case the salt produced by the licensees was attached by the court towards any debt. Attachment orders should therefore be issued only in case the creditor was prepared to secure the cost of production of salt attached which may be fixed at 2 annas per maund.

Fifthly, the Member requested that common *maramat* works in the factories should be attended to by a committee consisting of the Assistant Excise Commissioner and the Excise Inspector and representatives of the licensees, the expenditure for the purpose being met from the sale proceeds of the salt produced by the licensees on their respective *allams*. In regard to major works also, the Government should undertake such works at their cost as they were doing in the interests of paddy cultivation and the amount so spent might be recouped from the licensees by five or ten annual instalments.

Lastly, the weighment of salt before storage was a serious hardship and licensees incurred heavy loss on that account. The quantity of salt produced might be ascertained if the system followed in Bombay could be adopted in Travancore *allams*. The weight of the salt could easily be estimated from its cubic contents, one and a half cubic feet of salt weighing one maund. Such a system, if followed, would result in no loss to the Government and be of considerable advantage to the licensees.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kumaravelu Panikkar, your representations for bettering the position of the salt factory licensees are noted for consideration.

19. Temperance.

MR. PUNNOSE JACOB (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam*) explained the evils and misery to the individual and the society brought on by drinking and said that the proximity of liquor shops promoted the drink habit. It had no support in any religion and the Western countries were moving towards prohibition. He quoted what Mr. Lloyd George said about the evils of drinking and instanced the action taken by the Russian Emperor and the United States of America. The

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prohibition of foreign liquors in Bhopal and some other Indian States was also mentioned by way of suggesting the adoption of a similar course in Travancore. All the major municipalities in the State were more or less agreed that as far as possible no liquor shops should be located within municipal limits and suggested that as a temperance measure the location of liquor shops within municipal areas might be prohibited. If Government thought prohibition not immediately practicable, the municipal councils might be allowed local option and three-fourths of the total number of liquor shops might be closed down at once. The Member made the following further suggestions for making Travancore dry :—

1. Liquor shops should be located far away from markets, schools, law-courts, churches, temples, etc.

2. The total number of such liquor shops should be reduced to one-half to start with and should be reduced further every year.

3. The quantity made available for sale in each shop should also be reduced to one-half, and, in course of time, the sale of liquor should be stopped altogether.

4. The number of trees licensed for tapping should be reduced year by year.

5. Licensing boards with non-official majority should be started.

6. Facilities should be given for carrying on propaganda work.

The Member also drew the attention of the Government to the necessity for effecting retrenchment in public expenditure and for the overhauling of the departments of the State and for the reorganisation of the services.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Punnose Jacob, I have listened with interest to your enthusiatic speech on the subject of prohibition or temperance. You dealt firstly with the location of liquor shops in Kottayam. The question of location of liquor shops in the major municipalities was taken up and discussed by the Excise Committee, and the question will be decided when final orders are passed on that report. In regard to the reduction in the number of shops, you will find from my address delivered yesterday that the number of shops is being steadily reduced. It is a slow process. But because it is slow, it must all the more be sure.

20. Forest policy.

MR. K. C. ABRAHAM (*Member, Nominated*) represented the grievances caused to the people by the present policy of the Forest Department in several matters and made certain suggestions relating to the administration of the department. The grievances mentioned were firstly, the difficulties of people living in the outskirts of reserved forests. The mainstay of those people was agriculture and they used to clear the forests and raise paddy from those lands. This was put a stop to by making it an offence to enter the reserves. This was a source of grievance to the people living in the border of the reserves. It was suggested that swamps in the reserves might be disafforested for purposes of paddy cultivation which besides providing occupation to the cultivators would render importation of paddy into Travancore unnecessary.

Secondly, the people had to undergo considerable difficulty in obtaining free passes for felling trees from their *patta* lands as a *mahazar* prepared jointly by the Ranger and the *Proverthikar* was necessary under the existing system. To avoid the difficulty, the Ranger should be authorised to grant passes on an examination by him of the records relating to an application.

The next point was about the felling of Royal trees from private lands. Full rights should be given to cut and use all trees including Royal trees standing on private lands whether registered prior or subsequent to 1068. In regard to Royal trees already removed by the contractors from private lands, the payment of *tadivila* to the parties concerned was inordinately delayed and orders should be passed for the early payment of the same.

Another source of grievance mentioned was the policy followed by the department in the matter of sale of timber. Under the existing practice timber could be sold from the depots only. This was a source of hardship to people

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